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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that this is one of the causes for the present housing shortage? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" We cannot help it, Sir. When it is absolutely necessary that we must have some office in a particular locality, say for instance, for the location of a ration office, we cannot but requisition private buildings and convert them into non-residential buildings. But such cases are very rare, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government examine again how many residential houses have been converted for non-residential purposes, and whether it would not be possible for the Government to release such houses for residential accommodation again? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" I can assure the hon. Member, Sir, that such houses will be only very small in number, and wherever it is possible to release them for residential purposes, we shall certainly do so."

Allegations against the agent for import of sugar.

* 20 Q.—JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are allowing sugar to be imported and sold in excess of the ration, at a very high price, by an agent;

(b) if so, who the agent is; and

(c) the reasons that prompted the Government to appoint him as agent?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) No.
" (b) & (c) Do not arise. "

Opening of High Schools in Penukonda taluk, Anantapur district.

* 21 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Sri B. Bhima Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction issued orders for the opening of high schools both at Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam in Penukonda taluk of Anantapur district; and

(b) whether the Government have cancelled the said orders and, if so, for what reasons?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (a) The Director accorded permission for the opening of a high school at Bukkapatnam subject to conditions and informed the President, District Board, that the Director would have no objection to a school at Kothacheruvu also if the District Board's finances would permit it.

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" (*b*) The Government have asked the Director to permit the opening of two high schools, one at Bukkapatnam and the other at Kothacheruvu in the current year as the District Board requested for it."

Allegations against certain Prohibition officials of the West Godavari district.

* 22 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI (on behalf of Sri A. Govindacharyulu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any petitions containing serious allegations against any Prohibition officials of the West Godavari district;

(*b*) if so, when, from whom, the number of petitions and the nature of the complaint; and

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any action on those petitions and, if so, what the action taken is and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) to (*c*) The Government have received some petitions containing allegations against certain Prohibition officials in the West Godavari district and they are in various stages of disposal.

" As the correspondence and the investigation connected with these petitions are treated as strictly confidential, the Government consider that it is not in the public interest to furnish the further particulars asked for."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the cases in which investigations have been conducted will be enquired into, and if so, whether it will be an open enquiry?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" If there is sufficient material, we will refer it to the Tribunal and there will be an enquiry by the Tribunal, if necessary, Sir."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received a message from the Hon. Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly, dated 1st September 1950 :—

' In accordance with rule 99 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Elementary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1950 (L.A. Bill No. 12 of 1950), as passed by the Assembly on the 1st September 1950 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council '."

III.—DISCUSSION ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN THE STATE.

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move—

' *that the food situation in the State be taken into consideration.*'